

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAJ-01

ACDA-10 /080 W

-----110921Z 001957 /12

R 101445Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6054

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION NATO

EUCOM GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

UNCLAS ANKARA 0198

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TU, BU

SUBJ: ECEVIT VISITS BULGARIA

1. REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) CHAIRMAN BULENT ECEVIT, THE LEADER OF TURKEY'S OPPOSITION, VISITED BULGARIA JANUARY 5-7 AS GUEST OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BULGARIAN HOME FRONT, PENCO KUBADINSKI. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR BULGARIA, ECEVIT TOLD JOURNALISTS IN ISTANBUL THAT HE BELIEVED HIS VISIT WOULD PROMOTE TURKISH-BULGARIAN RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT HE CONSIDERED IT HIS DUTY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROMOTION OF THE RELATIOS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES BECAUSE "PROMOTION OF RELATIONS OF COUNTRIES OF DIFFERENT SECURITY SYSTEMS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT MEANS OF SAFEGUARDING WORLD PEACE IN THIS AGE."

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2. ECEVIT'S VISIT WAS PROMINENTLY REPORTED IN THE TURKISH PRESS. THE PRESS PAID PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO ECEVIT'S VISIT JANUARY 6 TO RUSCUK TO VISIT TURKISH COMMUNITIES. ECEVIT SAID HE AND THE RPP BELIEVED THAT THE BEST WAY TO PROVIDE FOR THE WELFARE OF THE TURKISH MINORITY RESIDENT IN OTHER COUTNRIES SUCH AS BULGARIA IS TO DEVELOP GOOD RELATIONS

WITH THOSE COUNTRIES AND WORK THROUGH THEM TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS FOR THE TURKISH COMMUNITY.

3. BEFORE RETURNING TO TURKEY JANUARY 7, ECEVIT MET WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE COUNCIL, ZHIVKOV. IN TALKING WITH REPORTERS DURING HIS RETURN FLIGHT TO TURKEY, ECEVIT CHARACTERIZED HIS MEETING WITH ZHIVKOV AS VERY USEFUL. HE SAID THE CONVERSATION HAD DEALT WITH BILATERAL RELATIONS AND VISA AND IMMIGRATION QUESTIONS. WITH HOME FRONT CHAIRMAN KUBADINSKI, ECEVIT SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED THE IMPROVEMENT IN THE TEACHING OF TURKISH AND TURKISH CULTURE AMONG THE TURKISH MINORITY IN BULGARIA. ECEVIT TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE DESIRE TO IMPROVE TURKISH-BULGARIAN FRIENDSHIP WAS SOMETHING THAT WENT BEYOND POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION. HOWEVER, HE STATED THAT HE HAD TOLD ZHIVKOV THAT "WHEN THE RPP COMES TO POWER," IT WOULD MAKE AN EVEN GRATER EFFORT TO IMPROVE TURKISH-BULGARIAN RELATIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, OPPOSITION PARTIES, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ANKARA00198
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770009-1261
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770168/aaaachio.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 23ffb6db-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3636129
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECEVIT VISITS BULGARIA
TAGS: PFOR, TU, BU, (ECEVIT, BULENT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/23ffb6db-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009